

to be printed. Bodapati does not relate the size of the carrier to the machine being used, and fails to suggest that his invention might be used with a postage printer of the type shown in Herring. And Herring does not provide a device suitable for printing postage on small devices like smartcards, nor does he suggest a method for doing so. We respectfully submit that the invention has become obvious only in hindsight, having benefit of the present application, and that the references do not suggest the combination of features now recited in claims 1, 3, 4 and 5. We believe those claims are in condition for allowance. The remaining claims have been canceled above.



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1. (amended) A method of using a postage meter printer having first and second feeding means for feeding an item to receive an imprint of a postage indicium past a print head, said first and second feeding means being operative to engage the item for the feeding thereof at first and second locations; said second location being spaced in a downstream direction from the first location by a distance of length greater than a dimension of the item in the direction of feeding thereof, said method including steps of

providing a carrier for said item, said carrier being at least as long as said distance,

mounting the item to said carrier and

feeding the item while mounted in the carrier to and past the print head by utilizing the first and second feeding means to concurrently feed the carrier whereby the item is fed by the first feeding means at least until the carrier is fed by the second feeding means.

3. (amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the item is a smartcard or memory card.

4. (amended) A method as claimed in claim 3, wherein the imprint corresponds to data stored in the smartcard or memory card.

5. (amended) A method as claimed in claim 3, wherein the imprint is of an advertising slogan corresponding to data stored in the smartcard or memory card.

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS SHOWING CHANGES MADE

1. A method of [utilising] using a postage meter printer having first and second feeding means for feeding an item to receive an imprint of a postage indicium past a print head, said first and second feeding means being operative to engage the item for the feeding thereof at first and second locations; said second location being spaced in a downstream direction from the first location by a distance of length greater than a dimension of the item in the direction of feeding thereof, said method including [the] steps of

providing a carrier for said item, said carrier being at least as long as said distance[;],

mounting the item to said carrier and

feeding the item while mounted in the carrier to and past the print head by [utilising] utilizing the first and second feeding means to concurrently feed the carrier whereby the item is fed by the first feeding means at least until the carrier is fed by the second feeding means.

2. [delete]

3. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the item is a smartcard or memory card.

4. A method as claimed in claim 3, wherein the imprint corresponds to data stored in the smartcard or memory card.

5. A method as claimed in claim [2] 3, wherein [the item is a smartcard or memory card and] the imprint is of an advertising [slogan] slogan corresponding to data stored in the smartcard or memory card.